

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS REGIMENT



**COLONEL
CHRISTOPHER E. ST. JOHN**

Inducted October 2011



Colonel St. John graduated from Texas A & M University as a Lieutenant in 1974. He served in the US Army for 27 years in Infantry, Special Forces and Psychological Operations assignments. From 1974 to 1988 his assignments included Infantry Platoon Leader and Executive Officer of "Charlie Rangers", (Company C Airborne, Ranger), 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry at Ft Benning, Georgia, and Company Commander in 2d Battalion, 187th Infantry (Airborne) at Ft Kobbe, Panama. His Special Forces assignments included Detachment Commander, 3d Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Gulick, Panama, Canal Zone; Director of Training at the Jungle Operations Training Center, Fort Sherman, Panama and Brigade Advisor to the Second Infantry Brigade of the Armed Forces of El Salvador during 1986 to 1988. As the US Advisor to the 2d Brigade of the Army of El Salvador, COL St. John was responsible for advising the Brigade Commander across the full spectrum of military operations and training to include Tactical PSYOP in support of brigade operations. Additionally, he collaborated with the CIA's PSYOP specialist to develop a national level PSYOP program.

Prior to COL St. John assuming command of the 8th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne) in 1993, he served in the United States Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) Directorate of Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs. In this assignment, he authored the package establishing the USSOCOM PSYOP positions at the CIA. He also drafted the operation for the first Counterdrug Military Information Support Team (Bolivia) which, over the course of two years, he was able to parlay its success for Military Information Support Teams (MIST) to five additional countries. When Pablo Escobar, the Medellin Cartel drug lord escaped from prison, the Colombian government launched one of the biggest manhunts ever undertaken. COL St John deployed to USSOUTHCOM and assisted the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in the operation.

COL St. John, commanding the 8th Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne) from 1993 to 1995, formed a PSYOP Task Force (POTF) ISO for Operations VIGILANT WARRIOR and UNITED SHIELD, deploying to Kuwait and Somalia respectively. The first operation was designed to deter further Iraqi aggression on the Iraq-Kuwait border. The POTF's swift response amplified the Allied assets and was considered instrumental in forcing Saddam Hussein to pull back his troops from the Kuwaiti border. Operation UNITED SHIELD provided the support for the safe and peaceful withdrawal of the seven nation United Nations peacekeeping troops from Somalia.

In 1995, COL St. John attended the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) and then had a tour in the Pentagon as the Director, Plans and Support in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Drug Enforcement Policy and Support. COL St. John's final assignment on active duty, from August 1999 to August 2001, was as commander of the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne).

Although COL St. John retired in 2001 and moved to South Texas, he has continued to serve the Regiment. He co-authored the Joint PSYOP Vision and Joint PSYOP Operational Concept, the documents that eventually evolved into the Joint Military Information Support Command (JMISC). He then facilitated the development of the first manning document, mission statement and initial funding requirements for the JMISC. Additionally, he co-authored USSOCOM's DOD Joint PSYOP Study which established the requirements for the Joint PSYOP Proponency at USSOCOM and increased both Active and Reserve force structure. He has continued his commitment to the Armed Forces and to his local community through a myriad of volunteer activities including serving as Senior Mentor and trainer for two RC Tactical PSYOP units conducting pre mission deployment training to Iraq and Afghanistan. Active in veteran's affairs in South Texas, he lobbies on all levels of government for military benefits and is involved with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Wounded Warrior Foundation, and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). He also speaks at various schools throughout the area including Texas A&M where he was chosen as conference Speaker at Texas A&M's 2003 annual Student Conference on National Affairs.

His awards include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Ribbon, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 1 device. His foreign awards include the Bolivian, Salvadoran and Thai Parachutist Badges, the Brazilian Jungle Combat Award, and the Salvadoran Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Badge.

Colonel St. John is married to Lieutenant Colonel (USAF Retired) Minerva Anaya-St. John.